

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A touch pad for a data processing system, comprising:
a first surface and [[an]] a first electrically conductive [[first]] thin film above the first surface [[film]];
a plurality of electrically non-conductive spacer dots above the first electrically conductive thin film;
a second electrically conductive thin film above the plurality of spacer dots;
a second film above the second electrically conductive thin film;
wherein [[the]] a density of spacer dots above the first electrically conductive thin film is non-uniform, and wherein a spacer dot density is in a range of 0.08 to 0.14 over a first portion of the first electrically conductive thin film.
2. (Currently Amended) The touch pad of claim 1, wherein the first surface is a ceramic, the second film is a flexible polymer, and the first and second electrically conductive thin films are a metal-oxide compound.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The touch pad of claim 1 [[3]], wherein [[the]] a spacer dot density is in [[the]] a range of .01 to .05 over a second portion of the first electrically conductive thin film.
5. (Currently Amended) The touch pad of claim 4, wherein the second portion of the first electrically conductive thin film comprises a signature box suitable for receiving a user's signature.
6. (Currently Amended) The touch pad of claim 4, wherein the first portion of the first electrically conductive thin film comprises a perimeter surrounding the second portion of the first electrically conductive thin film.

7. (Original) The touch pad of claim 4, wherein a spacer dot diameter in the first portion equals a spacer dot diameter in the second portion and wherein a spacer dot pitch in the first portion differs from a spacer dot pitch in the second portion.

8. (Currently Amended) A touch pad for a data processing system, comprising:
a first touch pad portion having a first sensitivity determined at least in part by ~~[[the]]~~ a configuration of a first set of spacer dots within the first touch pad portion; and
a second touch pad portion having a second sensitivity determined at least in part by ~~[[the]]~~ a configuration of a second set of spacer dots within the second touch pad portion;
wherein the first sensitivity and the second sensitivity differ due to differences in the configuration of the first set of spacer dots and the configuration of the second set of spacer dots configurations, and wherein a spacer dot density in the first touch pad portion exceeds a spacer dot density in the second touch pad portion by a factor in a range of 1.6 to 14.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The touch pad of claim 8 ~~[[9]], wherein the first spacer dot density is higher than the second spacer dot density and~~ wherein the first touch pad portion of the touch pad comprises a perimeter portion of the touch pad.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The touch pad of claim 8 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein the spacer dot density in the first touch pad portion is in ~~[[the]]~~ a range of approximately 0.08 to 0.14.

14. (Currently Amended) A touch pad for a data processing system, comprising: The touch pad of claim 8;
a first touch pad portion having a first sensitivity determined at least in part by a configuration of a first set of spacer dots within the first touch pad portion; and
a second touch pad portion having a second sensitivity determined at least in part by a configuration of a second set of spacer dots within the second touch pad portion;
wherein the first sensitivity and the second sensitivity differ due to differences in the configuration of the

first set of spacer dots and the configuration of the second set of spacer dots dot-configurations, wherein [[the]] a spacer dot diameter in the first and second touch pad portions is the same and wherein [[the]] a spacer dot pitch in the first and second touch pad portions differs.

15. (Currently Amended) A touch pad for a data processing system, comprising: The touch pad of claim 8;

a first touch pad portion having a first sensitivity determined at least in part by a configuration of a first set of spacer dots within the first touch pad portion; and

a second touch pad portion having a second sensitivity determined at least in part by a configuration of a second set of spacer dots within the second touch pad portion; wherein the first sensitivity and the second sensitivity differ due to differences in the configuration of the first set of spacer dots and the configuration of the second set of spacer dots dot-configurations, wherein [[the]] a spacer dot diameter in the first and second touch pad portion differs and wherein [[the]] a spacer dot pitch in the first and second touch pad portions is the same.

16. (Currently Amended) A touch pad for a data processing system, comprising: The touch pad of claim 8;

a first touch pad portion having a first sensitivity determined at least in part by a configuration of a first set of spacer dots within the first touch pad portion; and

a second touch pad portion having a second sensitivity determined at least in part by a configuration of a second set of spacer dots within the second touch pad portion; wherein the first sensitivity and the second sensitivity differ due to differences in the configuration of the first set of spacer dots and the configuration of the second set of spacer dots dot-configurations, wherein [[the]] a spacer dot diameter in the first and second touch pad portions differs and wherein [[the]] a spacer dot pitch in the first and second touch pad portions differs.

17. (Currently Amended) A touch pad for a data processing system, comprising:

a touch pad film over a first electrically conductive thin film;

a second electrically conductive thin film over a touch pad substrate;

first physical means for preventing a force below a first threshold applied to a first portion of the touch pad film from creating electrical contact between the first electrically conductive thin film and the second electrically conductive thin film, [[films]] and second physical means for preventing a force below a second threshold applied to a second portion of the touch pad film from creating electrical contact between the first electrically conductive thin film and the second electrically conductive thin film,

[[films]] wherein the first and second thresholds differ due to differences in the first and second physical means ~~in the first and second portions~~, wherein the first and second physical means comprise electrically insulating spacer dots formed on the second electrically conductive thin film, and wherein a ratio of spacer dot diameter to spacer dot pitch in the first portion of the touch pad film differs from a ratio of spacer dot diameter to spacer dot pitch in the second portion of the touch pad film.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The touch pad of claim 17, wherein ~~Wherein~~ the ratio in the first portion is in a ~~[[the]]~~ range of approximately 0.01 to 0.05 and the ratio ~~spacer-dot density~~ in the second portion is in a ~~[[the]]~~ range of approximately 0.8 to 0.14.